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KINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1958

BRITISH MUSEUM

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1958)

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Clerk to the Council .. A.W. Jones

BRITISH MUSEUM

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LEOMINSTER.

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KINGTON.

(Telephone: Kington 42)

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting this joint annual report, I wish to thank Mr. Chillingford, the Public Health Inspector, for a considerable proportion of it, and for his co-operation in the past year.

Statistically, nothing very startling has been observed during the year. The rise in the birth rate noted by Dr. MacKenzie last year has continued, and, when adjusted to allow for the age group structure of the district, has now exceeded the England and Wales rate for the first time for five years.

Similarly, after adjustment, the death rate remains below average, as it has done for five years. These figures are very satisfactory and show the advantage of a rural environment.

Only in deaths from diseases of the heart and arteries does the local rate tend to exceed the national rate consistently over the years; these being diseases of old age, this is not incompatible with the low average death rate.

Mr. Chillingford has drawn attention to the need for the modernization of such sewerage schemes as exist and the pre-requisite of a main water system. It does seem that at last there is to be water in many parts before long, since the financial difficulties to which he refers have been overcome.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	44,472
Estimated mid-year home population	4,770
Average number of persons per acre	.11
Number of inhabited houses..	1,493
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	.03
Average number of persons per house	3.2
Rateable Value	£23,886
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	£91.7.9d.

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	33	36	69
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	35	38	73

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D. (Crude)	15.3	13.6	10.0	9.8	16.4
" " (Adjusted)	17.6	15.7	11.6	11.4	19.0
England and Wales	16.4	16.1	15.7	15.0	15.2

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Kington R.D. ..	5.5
England and Wales ..	4.9

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.	Nil	29.8	20.4	Nil	35.7
England and Wales ..	21.6	22.4	23.0	23.1	24.0

Total Live and Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	33	36	69
Illegitimate	2	2	4
	35	38	73

INFANT DEATH RATES

Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:-

Kington R.D. .. .. Nil
England and Wales .. 16.2

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under one week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:-

Kington R.D. .. .. Nil
England and Wales .. 35.1

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under one year of age (including those under 4 weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:-

		1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.	(Total	13.6	15.4	20.8	Nil	Nil
	(Legitimate	14.4	16.1	21.3	Nil	Nil
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	(Total	22.5	23.1	23.7	24.9	25.4
	(Legitimate	*	22.8	23.5	24.6	25.1
	(Illegitimate	*	30.0	28.7	31.7	32.0

* figures not yet available

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:-

Kington R.D.	Nil
England and Wales ..	0.35

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:	34	24	58

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.(Crude) ..	12.1	10.9	12.3	14.1	12.5
" " (Adjusted)	10.7	9.7	10.7	11.5	10.2
England and Wales ..	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.7	11.3

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease	3	6	9

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.	1.89	2.72	2.70	1.43	1.21
England and Wales ..	2.12	2.09	2.08	2.10	2.03

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease	21	13	34

Cardio-Vascular Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.	7.13	4.39	6.66	9.42	7.27
England and Wales ..	6.07	5.84	6.00	5.99	5.83

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total
Total Deaths from Respiratory Disease	2	2	4

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:-

	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Kington R.D.	0.84	1.25	0.62	0.41	1.41
England and Wales ..	1.37	1.38	1.35	1.32	1.15

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, other than respiratory	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Other maligant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	2	3
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	6	12
Coronary disease, angina	7	2	9
Other heart disease	7	3	10
Other circulatory disease	1	2	3
Pneumonia	-	2	2
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
TOTAL: ..	34	24	58

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF KINGTON DURING 1958

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	2	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16
Measles	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE
DURING THE YEAR 1958

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	4	14	13	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	2	39
Measles	118	69	22	25	2	-	-	-	4	-	2	16	258
Scarlet Fever	3	2	4	1	1	1	4	-	-	2	5	5	28
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	3	3	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	14
Dysentery	4	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	7
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmonary	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Comparative figures for previous years - Kington R.D.

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Whooping Cough	16	5	12	1	60
Measles	3	9	148	46	-
Scarlet Fever	-	11	2	3	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	2	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis					
Pulmonary	1	2	4	5	4
Non-Pulmonary	-	1	3	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis					
Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	1	-

Comparative figures for previous years - North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	39	192	87	104	310
Measles	258	144	561	649	24
Scarlet Fever	28	71	42	33	79
Erysipelas	2	7	8	6	6
Acute Pneumonia	14	49	20	20	23
Dysentery	16	38	7	6	15
Food Poisoning	5	10	-	-	4
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	1	-
Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	3	2	3	4
Tuberculosis					
Pulmonary	7	33	19	28	25
Non-Pulmonary	3	4	6	9	1
Acute Poliomyelitis					
Paralytic	-	12	1	2	-
Non-Paralytic	-	14	-	3	1
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	1
Malaria (contracted abroad)	-	-	-	1	1

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	1.00	0.74
Measles	6.70	5.08
Scarlet Fever	0.72	0.86
Erysipelas	0.05	0.07
Acute Pneumonia	0.36	0.49
Dysentery	0.41	0.84
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.20
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.003
Paratyphoid Fever	0.03	0.004
* Puerperal Pyrexia	6.09	14.26
Tuberculosis		
Pulmonary	0.18	0.59
Non-Pulmonary	0.08	0.08
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.00	0.44

* per 1,000 live and still births.

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1957	25	17	7	7
New cases notified	1	-	-	-
Moved into district	-	-	-	1
Moved out of district	-	1	1	-
Recovered	2	2	-	2
Died from tuberculosis	-	-	1	-
Died from other causes	1	-	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1958	23	14	5	6

TUBERCULOSIS (Continued)

Year	New Notifications	Total Cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1953	2	42	3	2
1954	4	45	Nil	Nil
1955	5	49	Nil	1
1956	7	55	2	3
1957	3	56	Nil	1
1958	1	48	1	6

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year:-

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1-4	5-14		
Diphtheria	35	16	21	72	97
Whooping Cough	35	11	6	52	-

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year:-

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of child					Total	Revaccinations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
	62	3	2	3	1	71	13

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLIES

The Rural District was still dependent on wells, springs and estate supplies, both private and public, throughout the year. No serious shortage of water occurred although certain parishes encountered local difficulties in supply as the result of seasonal shortage.

During the early part of the year tenders were invited for the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme, and it was hoped that a start would be possible. However this was not to be and the year ended with certain difficulties on the financial side of the scheme still to be settled.

Thirty samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination during the year. Of these, fourteen were satisfactory, and sixteen were unsatisfactory. Advice was given to owners, and remedial measures to improve supplies were recommended where necessary.

Number of houses supplied with water by Local Authority's mains and stand pipes. (This figure includes Council Housing Estate supplies, and Hergest Camp hutments)	123
Number of houses supplied with water by Private Water Undertakings. (Mains and stand pipes)	96
Number of houses supplied with water from other supplies (wells, streams, pumps, etc)	1,191

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Two parishes only in the district are sewered. The schemes were put in over fifty years ago and have little to commend them today. The method of treatment depends on land irrigation and the area available for this purpose is limited. Schemes have been prepared for the modernising of these two disposal works, together with a complete scheme for the sewerage of Lyonshall village. These schemes, however, depend on the district water supply being brought into operation.

During the year continued advantage was taken by owners of properties of the grants available under the Housing Acts for the modernising of dwelling houses, and several septic tank systems of drainage were installed where previously none existed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE (Continued)

Number of houses connected to public sewers	102
Number of houses connected to private disposal works (estimated)	200
Number of houses using chemical, pail or earth closets	1,108

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The work of refuse collection and disposal continued satisfactorily throughout the year. This service is one that is appreciated generally, as evidenced by the quantity collected which is increasing year by year. One new tip was brought into use during 1958, and one tip was closed.

Number of parishes in which refuse is collected	18

Frequency - monthly.

Method of collection - contractor.

Method of disposal - crude tipping (5 tips)

Number of parishes in which refuse is not collected	Nil

RODENT CONTROL

Systematic survey and treatment, parish by parish, has been carried out, and rat infestation throughout the district has been kept under control. In addition to private and business property, the Council's sewers and disposal works, together with the refuse disposal tips, received routine attention.

Liaison with the Pests Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has been maintained, and notifications of infestations exchanged where necessary, followed by subsequent control measures.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Council house repairs	153
Housing Acts	103
Nuisances and Complaints ..	21
Building Byelaws	201
Water Supplies (general) ..	107
Water samples taken	30
Milk and Dairies Regulations..	17
Milk samples taken	20

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (Continued)

Food Premises	192
Refuse Disposal	41
Sewerage	148
Disinfection following infectious disease	-
Disinfestation of verminous premises	-
Hergest Camp	157
Miscellaneous	9
	1199

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	7
Statutory	-
Complied with	5

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	10	12	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the L.A.	2	4	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	7	14	-	-
TOTAL	19	30	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil

HOUSING

No building was carried out by the Council during the year, but the site at Staunton-on-Arrow for four houses was purchased, and a tender for the erection of these houses was accepted subject to Ministry approval.

Five houses were completed by private enterprise, and four others were under construction at the end of the year.

Eleven applications for Improvement Grants were received, one being subsequently withdrawn, and ten were approved.

Complaints in respect of housing accommodation were dealt with as they arose. At the end of the year there were twenty-one applications on the Council's housing waiting list, excluding Hergest Camp.

HERGEST CAMP

Fifty-five families were still accommodated in the converted hutments at the end of 1958. Negotiations were proceeding for the permanent acquisition of a portion of the Camp for building purposes and a tender for the erection of twenty-six dwellings was accepted, subject to Ministry approval.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Two private slaughterhouses are licensed in the district, and this has entailed routine visits on all occasions of slaughtering. One hundred and fifty-eight such visits were made during the year, the number of animals slaughtered and inspected being as follows:-

Cattle	..	164
Sheep	..	501
Pigs	..	201
Calves	..	6

The quantity of meat rejected as unfit for human consumption was relatively slight, consisting of the following:-

Sheep	..	2 whole carcases
Pigs	..	3 heads
Calves	..	3 whole carcases

together with 186 lb. of offal

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)

Thirty-four visits were made to other food premises where conditions generally were satisfactory, due consideration being given to the age of the buildings concerned and the availability or otherwise of essential services.

Food Premises are summarised as follows:-

General Stores	12
Butchers shops	2
Bakeries	2
Cafes	2
Public Houses	14

Number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938: 11

Food Hygiene Regulations

No prosecutions were taken under these regulations.

BRITISH MUSEUM